



OKC NEWS

JULY 2020

AUGUST EVENTS

As the COVID-19 (new coronavirus) pandemic continues, check with venues and event organizers for schedule updates.

Cox Convention Center

coxconventioncenter.com • (405) 602-8500

15-17 Cannabis Expo

Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

22 Intocable
30 Of Perpetual Solace

Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

1 Cat Video Fest

Scissortail Park

scissortailpark.org • (405) 445-6277

1, 8, 15 & 22 OSU-OKC Farmer's Market

State Fair Park (OKC Fairgrounds)

statefairparkokc.com • (405) 948-6700

1 Craft Beer Festival
22-23 Repticon

Full calendar of events at visitokc.com

MAPS 4

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

at large	Teresa Rose Crook, Chairperson
at large	Brenda Hernández
ward 1	Russell Pace, Jr.
ward 2	Allie Shinn
ward 3	Harry Black
ward 4	Shay Morris
ward 5	Kevin Guarnera
ward 6	Daisy Muñoz
ward 7	Monique Bruner
ward 8	Bob Nelson
rotating council member	Mark Stonecipher (ward 8)

Mayor David Holt and the City Council appointed 10 volunteer residents and one rotating Council member to the MAPS 4 Citizens Advisory Board.

The board will meet monthly and have six subcommittees dedicated to a specific project or group of projects. Mayor Holt will nominate more volunteers for subcommittees at a later date.

The subcommittees will focus on planning and implementation of projects, bringing recommendations to the full advisory board. The advisory board makes recommendations to the City Council, which has final authority over MAPS 4.

The advisory board members representing each ward were recommended to the Mayor for appointment by the Council member representing that ward. Visit okc.gov/maps4 for details on MAPS 4.

\$1.66B budget approved

The City Council approved a \$1.66 billion budget for fiscal year 2021, which began July 1. The \$457 million General Fund budget, which pays for day-to-day services, is 5.6% smaller than last year because of the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The budget includes federal emergency relief funding to reimburse the City for some eligible direct costs of the pandemic. Public safety makes up 66% of the General Fund, followed by public services at 15%, culture and recreation at 10% and general government at 8%. You can review the budget book on okc.gov.

Half-price dog adoptions

Celebrate the Hot Dogs of Summer in August with half-price dog and puppy adoptions from OKC Animal Welfare. All dog and puppy adoptions are \$30 all month long at 2811 SE 29th Street. All adoptable animals at OKC Animal Welfare are microchipped, up-to-date on vaccinations, treated for worms and spayed or neutered. Visit okc.gov/animalwelfare or call (405) 297-3100 for details, including pandemic-related changes to operating hours or conditions.

COVID-19 updates

The rapidly developing and changing COVID-19 pandemic is affecting some City of OKC services. Emergency orders may also affect business operations, events and more. Visit covid19.okc.gov for the duration of the pandemic for the latest local news, guidance and City services updates.

Odd-even watering

Help conserve water by remembering to abide by the permanent, odd-even watering schedule for residents and businesses. If your address ends with an odd number, you can irrigate or use sprinklers on odd-numbered calendar days. If your address ends with an even number, then irrigate or use sprinklers on even-numbered days. The policy does not apply to hand watering or drip irrigation. Implementing an odd-even watering program puts less drain on the city's water system during high-demand months. Learn more about how to save water at SqueezeEveryDrop.com.

PARKS EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 (new coronavirus) pandemic, we recommend you visit okc.gov/parks and okc.gov/parks/signup for the latest details on these events in case of changes.

Senior Family Fun Night (all ages, must have at least one person age 50+):

Join us for popcorn, drinks, face painting, croquet, cornhole and more.

Aug. 8 and the third Tues. of every month
5-7 p.m. • Free

Woodson Senior Center, 3401 S May Ave.
okc.gov/parks/signup • keyword 32468

Dodgers Rookie Baseball League

(ages 3-10): Learn fundamental baseball skills in a non-competitive league. Seven-game season includes end-of-season event at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

Aug. 24 (first practice) & Sept. 12 (first game)
\$35/player or \$300/team for t-ball (ages 6 & under)
\$55/player or \$500/team for baseball
Games at Wheeler Park, 1120 S Western Ave.
okc.gov/parks/signup • keyword 28195

Unlicensed solicitors

Protect your pocketbook from swindlers – if a salesperson is selling items door to door in your neighborhood, ask to see his or her solicitors or peddlers license. The City requires that solicitors carry a police-issued photo ID and pass an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background check. If the salesperson doesn't have a license, buyer beware. Churches and educational programs are exempt from the ordinance. If you see anyone suspicious or feel threatened – whether they're an unlicensed solicitor or not – err on the side of caution and call 911 for help.

Mulch for flower beds

Help your soil hold its moisture by keeping it covered with mulch all summer long. Use about 2-4 inches of mulch on top of the soil, mounding it at the base of plants and checking it periodically to see where you might need more. Organic mulch slowly breaks down, building up the soil and giving your plants a boost. You can also use a mulching lawnmower to keep grass clippings on your lawn and provide beneficial nutrients.

Don't forget 2020 Census

Have you taken the 2020 Census? It's happening now. Do your part to make sure OKC is counted. If you misplaced your mailer, you can still complete the questionnaire at my2020census.gov or call (800) 330-2020. It's important to include everyone who was living in your house on April 1, even if they were only temporarily living with you. Each person who isn't counted in the census costs our community about \$1,675 in local federal funding per person every year for 10 years. Visit my2020census.gov for details.

Get help with court cases

Don't let a Municipal Court case cause you anxiety – the Court's Community Relations Coordinators are here to help you resolve your case. You won't be arrested for coming to court to resolve your case. People who can't afford to pay fines can get a hearing and won't be sent to jail. The Community Relations Coordinators can speak to churches and other organizations in English or Spanish to help people understand their options. Call (405) 297-2361 for details.

Summer pet safety

Make sure your pets stay safe and cool in the summer: If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Bring pets inside when it's hot and provide them with plenty of shade and fresh water when they're outside. Walk your pets at cooler times of the day and never leave an animal in a car. Contact Animal Welfare at (405) 297-3100 if you see an animal in distress. Visit okc.gov/animalwelfare for more pet safety tips.

Wildfire protection

Vegetation can be at its driest during the hot summer months, increasing the risk of wildfires. Homeowners especially in rural or semi-rural areas or near open fields should keep their grass cut short for at least 200 feet surrounding houses and other buildings. Use proper care when doing anything outside that could cause a spark like grilling, welding or cigarette disposal.

Try a grass step test

Bermuda grass is a resilient plant and doesn't need much water in the heat of the summer. Try a "step test" to see if it needs water before you irrigate. If you walk onto your grass and can see your footprint, it's time to water. But if it springs back, you can leave your sprinklers off.

Grilling safety tips

Summertime grilling is a national pastime, but it's a fire danger if you don't take precautions. About 8,800 home fires are caused every year by grilling and half of all grilling-related injuries are from burns. The OKC Fire Department offers these safety tips:

- Propane and charcoal grills are for use outdoors only.
- Keep grill far from the house, deck railings, eaves and branches.
- Children and pets should be at least 3 feet away from grill.
- Open grill lid before lighting.
- If the grill flame goes out, wait 15 minutes before re-lighting.
- Remove grease and fat buildup.
- Never leave grill unattended.

F.D. Moon renovations

Construction is under way on the \$4 million renovation of F.D. Moon Middle School in northeast OKC. Improvements to the 57-year-old school include updated heating and air conditioning, a fire sprinkler system, new elevator, controlled access and other projects. The school is named after the late educator Frederick Moon, considered the "dean" of education in the local black community. The funding for the project is the last of the excess collections and interest from the MAPS for Kids program.

Oklahoma City in top 25

Oklahoma City has surged to No. 25 on the list of biggest American cities according to data release in May by the U.S. Census Bureau. Our population has grown an estimated 12% since the 2010 census to 655,057.